NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
June 19, 1998

TRANSITIONS

Marilyn Martinson, director of Human Resources, will be leaving her current position at the Museum. Marilyn wants a little more flexibility with her time to pursue some personal interests. She has served with distinction and has been a good counselor to so many at the Museum. We all will miss her in her current role.

But, there is also good news. While Marilyn will no longer serve as the director of Human Resources, she will continue her involvement with the Museum and do project work for us on a contractual basis. So, you will still see her around and we will have the benefit of working with her.

Marilyn will continue with her current responsibilities until her replacement is found. A search is underway and we anticipate this happening toward the end of the summer.

As you know, **Carrie Hageman** decided last month to work on a part-time basis with the Museum in order to spend some time with her daughter. It is important for institutions to have the flexibility to accommodate personal priorities in the case of key individuals. Both Marilyn and Carrie represent the kind of people who have made great contributions to the Museum and the opportunity to continue their involvement is important to all of us.

John McCarter

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA--DISCOUNT COUPONS!

Discount coupons are now available in the Human Resources Department for savings on admission for up to eight people. You can receive **$15.00 OFF** performances on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. This discount is only valid until April 29. We have a limited amount of tickets and they will be distributed on a first-come basis. So come enjoy the savings and check out The Opera.

HEADING OUT TO GREAT AMERICA?

The Human Resource Department has coupons for $4 and $5 discounts on full-price adult tickets.

KAFFEEKLATSCH SUGGESTION

On our June 3 meeting in Kaffeeklatsch, we had a suggestion about putting new items in our main store such as: aspirin, diapers, pantyhose, etc. Because of certain concerns, we are still looking into the idea. However, you can now find aspirin outside our Security console area. The price is $ .75 for two aspirins. Also, think about the possibility of having your own departmental emergency kit with items that may relate to your departments' special needs. Questions? Call **Marilyn Martinson** (x524).

LESBIAN/GAY MUSEUM WORKERS' POTLUCK

Wednesday, June 24 from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m.
North Lawn (just past the semi-circle)

Please bring a dish to chsre (but if you're too busy to make something don't let that keep you from coming as we always have plenty of food. Come get to know your fellow gay and lesbian co-workers. For more information call **Steve** (x336) or **Robin** (x245).

All welcome!

MEETINGS IN THE MAORI MEETING HOUSE

Be part of Field Museum's "living marae." Museum meetings can be scheduled in the Maori Meeting House. No food or drinks are allowed, and please remove your shoes and leave them infront of the house. Call **Mary Ann Bloom** (x350), regarding information and the scheduling of meetings in the Maori House.

NATURAL NEWS on Intranet

Some months ago I began to post the *Natural News* to the Intranet. The process was interrupted because a number of submissions in each issue were too big or too complex for my computer to transfer. For example, the calendar is a big chunk which is always regurgitated when I try to transfer it. I delayed posting these issues to the Intranet until I could solve these problems, but have concluded that it is better to post incomplete issues. Therefore, you should find the last several month's worth on the Intranet soon. Thank you for your patience.

Editor's vacation: As I am leaving on Thursday, June 18 for a week's vacation, this week's issue contains only material submitted by the Tuesday noon deadline. The *Natural News* will be published next on Friday, July 3. If there are time-valued announcements which must go out before then, please consult with **Marilyn Martinson** (x524) in Human Resources. – **Carolyn Klyce,** editor

LEARNING FROM OTHERS

We at The Field can always benefit from the experiences of our sister institutions. Here is a real response to a real correspondent from the Smithsonian Institute (passed along by **Jean Cattell**):

Dear XXX

Thank you for your latest submission to the Institute, labeled "93211-D, layer seven, next to the clothesline post.Hominid skull." We have given this specimen a careful and detailed examination, and regret to inform you that we disagree with your theory that it represents conclusive proof of the presence of Early Man in Charleston County two million years ago.

Rather, it appears that what you have found is the head of a Barbie doll, of the variety that one of our staff, who has small children, believes to be "Malibu Barbie."

It is evident that you have given a great deal of thought to the analysis of this specimen, and you may be quite certain that those of us who are familiar with your prior work in the field were loathe to come to contradiction with your findings.

However, we do feel that there are a number of physical attributes of the specimen which might have tipped you off to its modern origin:

1. The material is molded plastic. Ancient hominid remains are typically fossilized bone.

2. The cranial capacity of the specimen is approximately nine cubic centimeters, well below the threshold of even the earliest identified proto-homonids.

3. The dentition pattern evident on the skull is more consistent with the common domesticated dog than it is with the ravenous man-eating Pliocene clams you speculate roamed the wetlands during that time.

This latter finding is certainly one of the most intriguing hypotheses you have submitted in your history with this institution, but the evidence seems to weigh rather heavily against it. Without going into too much detail, let us say that:

A. The specimen looks like the head of a Barbie doll that a dog has chewed on.

B. Clams don't have teeth.

It is with feelings tinged with melancholy that we must deny your request to have the specimen carbon-dated. This is partially due to the heavy load our lab must bear in its normal operation, and partly due to carbon-dating's notorious inaccuracy in fossils of recent geologic record. To the best of our knowledge, no Barbie dolls were produced prior to 1956 AD, and carbon-dating is likely to produce wildly inaccurate results.

July

1998

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 PSierwald-JST/WLobby **TASTE OF CHICAGO** Fire vs Dallas 7:30pm	2 PSierwald- SFH, JST, West Lobby Museum open to public 5:00pm-9:00pm **TASTE OF CHICAGO**	3 PSierwald-JST, West Lobby **JULY 4TH HOLIDAY** **TASTE OF CHICAGO**	4 Jones/Gill Wedding-SFH-5:3 AACS&E-JST 10:30am-5:30pm Kwebber-Rice10:00am-1:00p ***Alpha Sorority-McCor*** **TASTE OF CHICAGO** Sports Events – T
5 **TASTE OF CHICAGO** ***Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-McCormick Pl***	6 Alpha Kappa Alpha – SFH 6:00pm-10:00pm 300 ***Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-McCormick Pl***	7 KWebber-JST 5:00pm-10:00pm ***Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-McCormick Pl***	8 Phillippine Fest SFH Phillippine Set-up ***Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-McCormick Pl***	9 Philippine Fest SFH ***Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-McCormick Pl***	10 Philippine Fest SFH Music Theater Workshop-JST 10:00am-4:00pm ***Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-McCormick Pl***	11 D.Yonattnen Party-DR C 11:00am-2:00pm Philippine Fest SFH Concert-6pm - T Fire vs Miami-7pm
12 Philippine Fest SFH	13 Philippine Fest SFH TAWPI-SFH 6:00pm-10:00pm 500	14 SRhoads-Founders Rm./SFH	15 T-Special Events SFH	16 Museum open to the Public 5:00pm-9:00pm SWebb-JST 5:30pm-9:00pm	17 Chg. Yacht Club - JST 3:30pm-7:30pm 500 Music Theater Workshop-JST- 10am-3pm ***NSGA World Sports Expo-McCormick Pl***	18 Pampered Chef – SFH 7:00pm-10:00pm 1200 **MAYOR'S CUP YOUTH SOCC** Atrzynia-JST 9am-9pm ***NSGA World Sports Expo-M*** ***Imprinted Sportswear S***
19 Atrzyan-SFH 10:00am-2:00pm T-Special Events- Rice **MAYOR'S CUP YOUTH SOCCER FEST** ***NSGA World Sports Expo-McCormick Pl*** ***Imprinted Sportswear Show-McCormick Pl***	20 Assignmt Rescue Tour-5:00pm-6:30pm ***NSGA World Sports Expo-McCormick Pl*** ***Imprinted Sportswear Show - McCormick Pl***	21 SVandenbosch- Whole Museum (Presidents Dinner) EKaplan/Dev-Rice/JST 8:00am-6:00pm	22 The Pampered Chef-SFH 7:00pm-10:00pm 1200	23 Members Night-Whole Museum Music Theater Workshop-JST 2:00pm -4:00pm	24 Members Night-Whole Museum Music Theater Workshop-JST 10am-4pm ***Black Expo-Chicago Gift Summer Show-McCormick Pl***	25 ***Keller Grad School*** ***6:00pm-12:00am*** ***SWebb-Rice 10:00a*** Dr. Sante-JST 5:30-11:00pm ***VENETIAN NIGHT*** ***Black Expo-Chg Gift S McCormPl***
26 Atrzyan-SFH 10:00AM-2:00PM T-Special Events- JST -SFH ***Blacck Expo-Chg Gift Summer Show-McCormick Pl***	27 Skaruschak-Whole Museum 5:00pm-12:00am ***Internet World Summer-Chg Gift Summer Show-McCormick Pl***	28 KWebber-JST 5:00pm-10:00pm ***Internet World Summer-Chg Gift Summer Show-McCormick Pl***	29 SWebb-JST 5:00-10:00pm Skkaruschak-SFH/Rice /Founder's Rm 5:00-10:30pm ***Internet World Summer-McCormick Pl***	30 Museum open to the public 5:00pm-9:00pm ***Internet World Summer-McCormick Pl***	31 Music Theater Workshop-JST 10:00am-4:00pm ***Internet World Summer-McCormick Pl***	

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

ZOOARCHAEOLOGY OUT IN THE FIELD

David S. Reese (Anthropology) has just returned from two months at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm where he studied the animal bones and shells from American excavations at Troy (Turkey) excavated in 1932-38. He also gave two lectures on ancient Mediterranean faunas at the University of Stockholm and one at the Stockholm museum.

In his "excavation" of the storeroom of the Mediterranean Museum in Stockholm he uncovered unstudied animal bones and shells from Swedish excavations on Cyprus in 1927-31 which will require him to return to Stockholm in the near future. But first he will do more zooarchaeological work on the Greek mainland this summer.

SEASE SPEAKS IN STOCKHOLM

Cap Sease (Anthropology) recently returned from a two week busman's holiday in Stockholm. While there she gave an invited lecture to Stockholm area conservators sponsored by the National Board of Antiquities. She spoke about Field Museum's NEH-funded rehousing of the anthropology collections.

Cap also visited conservation labs and collection storage facilities and talked with conservators and collections managers at the State Historic Museum, Ethnographic Museum, Museum of Natural History, Medelhavsmuseet (Mediterranean Museum), Vasa Museum, Army Museum and the Archaeological Research Laboratory of the University of Stockholm.

XIV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ARACHNOLOGY AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

Over 300 arachnid specialist from thirty-three countries will visit the Field Museum during the XIV International Congress of Arachnology. There will be over 140 oral presentation and more than 80 posters will be presented. The high number of participating students (nearly one hundred) and the large number of systematic papers are special features of this congress.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Sunday June 28, 8:15am: Field Museum President **John McCarter** will open the congress. On Sunday, a day-long symposium focuses on the role of *spiders in agroecosystems.* The symposium on Monday morning presents nine talks on *higher phylogenetics in spiders.* The poster reception will be held on Monday evening between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Poster presenters will be at their posters at that time. Videos, slides and movies, all related to arachnids will be shown in the evening of June 30. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each will start with an invited Plenary Lecture devoted

to "The neglected cousins." Whereas spider research is very active, the remaining arachnid groups (scorpions, whip scopions, camel spiders, pseudoscorpions, daddy long-legs and other groups without even common names) are severely understudied, mainly because there are no researchers in the field. During the XIV Congress of Arachnology we hope to direct attention to this problem. If you wish more information and how to register, please contact Congress Organizer **Petra Sierwald** (x841) in Zoology/Insects.

HEANEY AND REGALADO ON WBEZ WITH "VANISHING TREASURES"

An interview with **Larry Heaney** (Zoology) and **Jack Regalado** (Botany) about their new book published by The Field Museum, "Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rain Forest," was aired on WBEZ on Thursday, June 4, and Saturday, June 6. The roughly twenty-five minute interview was conducted by Orlando de Guzman, producer of the WBEZ show "848." Mr. de Guzman is a Filipino who had recently returned to the Philippines to produce a series on environmental problems. Both the book and the exhibit of the same name in the Searle Lounge received prominent attention.

LIONS OF TSAVO PROWL THE WEB

The Tsavo Lions are sporting a new look on our Web site. Web Master **Brad Loetel** (Academic Affairs) has redesigned the pages and added more images, plus information on our research programs in Tsavo - especially the new initiative with the Kenya Wildlife Service. The Lions of Tsavo remain popular not only with visitors to the Museum (who get to see the "real thing") but to our virtual visitors via the Web. The Lions of Tsavo Web pages continue to come in close to our top ten most popular pages (usually at number eleven or twelve). Look for these new and improved pages in the On-line Exhibits section of our Web site, with links from Permanent Exhibits and elsewhere throughout the site (Services/Museum Stores, etc.).

Field Museum Summer Series
Wednesday, June 24 at 4:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall II
Luisa Maffi of Northwestern University on
"Language as a Resource for Nature."
All invited.

INVASION AT THE ADLER PLANETARIUM

Movie Series Schedule at The Adler Planetarium
7:00 p.m. in the Universe Theater
Admission: $5 for adults; $3 for children; series pass for $35
Thursday, July 2—War of the Worlds (1953)
Thursday, July 9—The Time Machine (1960)
Thursday, July 16—It Came From outer Space (1953)
Thursday, July 23—Forbidden Planet (1956)
Thursday, July 30—Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)